

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC CROP CONDITIONS

REF: PEKING 1107

REPORTS OF HIGH TEMPERATURES, LITTLE PRECIPITATION AND
FREQUENT WINDS ARE CAUSING INCREASING CONCERN FOR WHEAT
CROP IN NORTH CHINA PLAIN.

AN APRIL 27 REUTERS NEWS ITEM INDICATED THAT DROUGHT
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CONDITIONS IN MANY PARTS OF CHINA ARE WORSENING, ACCORDING
TO THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY. THE REPORT SAID THAT IN THE
MAJOR WHEAT GROWING VALLEYS OF THE YELLOW AND HUAI
RIVERS TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN HIGH WITH LITTLE OR NO
MOISTURE AND FREQUENT WIND STORMS. TOP SOIL MOISTURE
QUICKLY EVAPORATED AND THE AREA HIT BY DROUGHT HAS
EXPANDED.

METEOROLOGICAL DATA INDICATES TEMPERATURES REACHED 30-35 DEGREES C DURING PERIOD APRIL 10-16 IN HONAN, KANSU, SHANSI, SHENSI, SZECHWAN AND UP TO 39 DEGREES C IN HUPEI. TEMPERATURES IN THE LOW 30'S AGAIN OCCURRED LATE IN THE PERIOD APRIL 24-30 IN HONAN, KANSU, SHANSI AND SHENSI. SOME PRECIPITATION IN MORE SOUTHERLY PARTS OF HONAN, HUPEI

AND SMALLER AMOUNTS IN SHANSI AND SHENSI DID OCCUR IN LAST HALF OF APRIL.

WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE WHEAT CROP. SINCE CROPS NOW APPARENTLY IN THE JOINTING AND HEADING STAGES, ABOVE DESCRIBED CONDITIONS COULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT YIELDS. CHRISTOPHER

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